

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Donald B. Johnson et al.) Group Art Unit: 2766
)
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned) Examiner: J. Seal
)
Filed: February 2, 2001)
)
For: Masked Digital Signatures)
)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 19, after "schemes" insert --,--; and

line 29, after "intractable" insert --,--.

Page 4, line 17, after "key" delete "k"; and

line 23, delete "t" and replace with --k-- and delete "k" and replace with
--t--.

Page 5, line 1, after "provided" delete ",";

line 2, delete "assigning" and insert --signing--;

line 4, after "field" insert --,--;

line 4, delete "the" (second occurrence) and insert --The--;

line 5, delete "comprising" and insert --comprises--;

line 6, delete "within the" and insert --a--;

line 6, after "boundary" and before the "," insert --containing--;

line 7, delete "means for generating" and after "key" and before the ","

insert --generator--;

line 8, delete "means for generating" and after "key" and before the ","

insert --generator--;

line 9, delete "means for generating" and after "component" insert

--generator--;

line 10, delete "; and" and insert --. The processor operates to--;

line 11, delete "generating" and insert --generate--; and

line 18, delete "according to the present invention."

Page 6, line 20, after "boundary" and before the "." insert --as indicated at 32--.

Page 7, line 7, delete "then to" and before "verify" insert --the recipient can--;

line 8, delete "the recipient calculates" and before "hash value" insert
--by calculating--;

line 9, delete "computes" and insert --computing--; and

line 29 after "however" insert --,--.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Amend Figures 1 and 2 as shown in red on the accompany drawings.

REMARKS

The amendments are to place the application in better form for examination and do not add subject matter.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

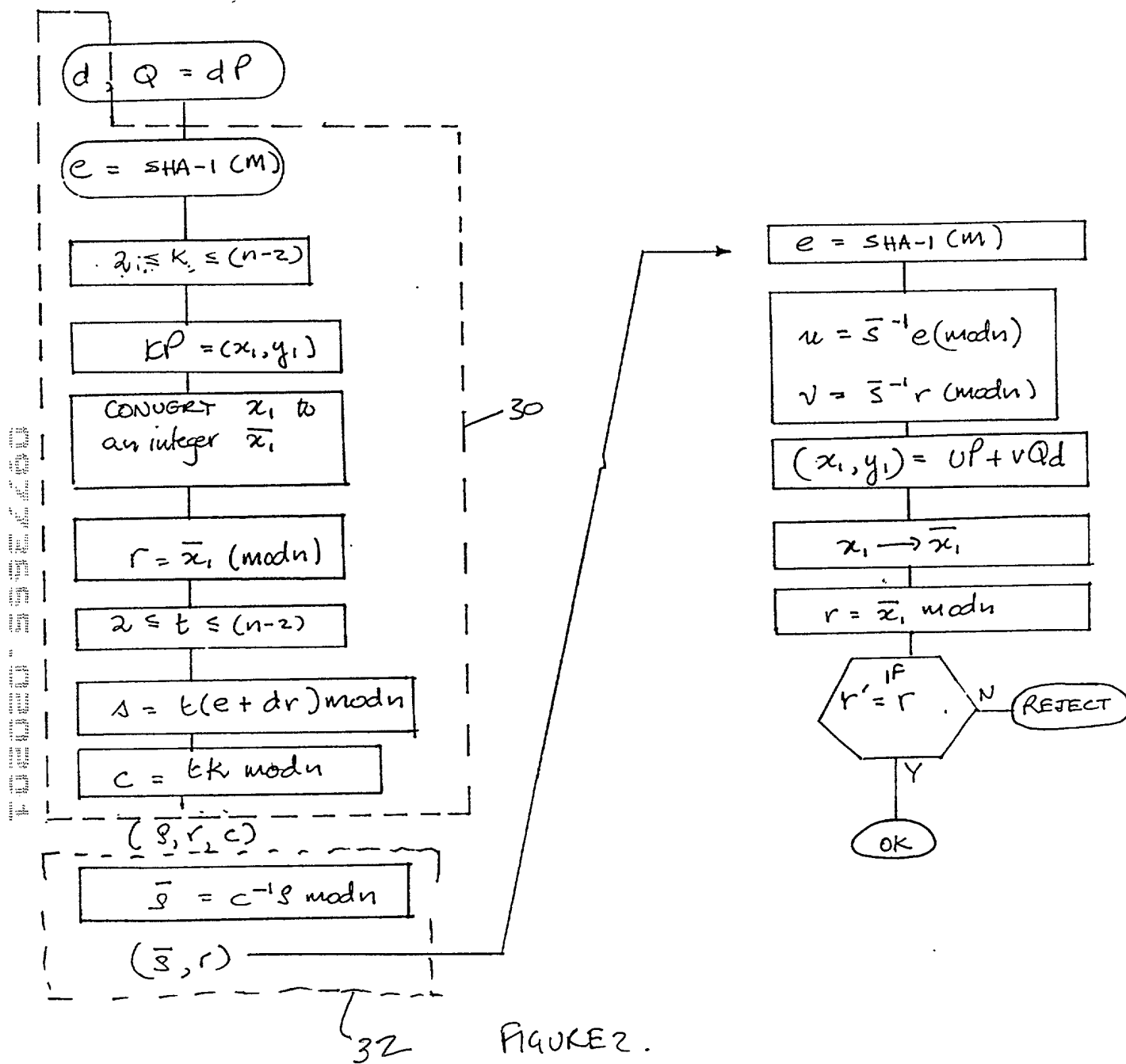
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 2, 2001

By: 

Arthur S. Garrett
Reg. No. 20,338

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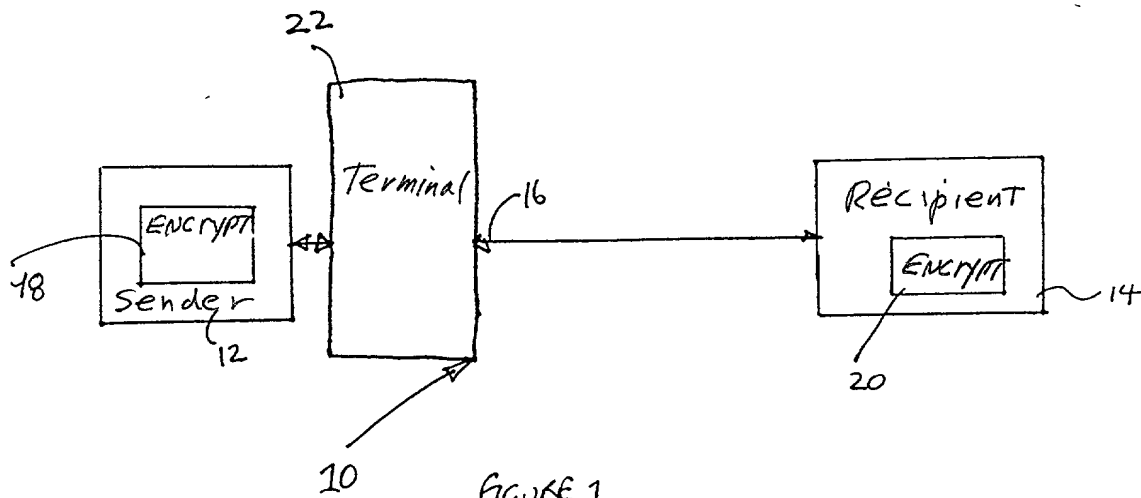


FIGURE 1